

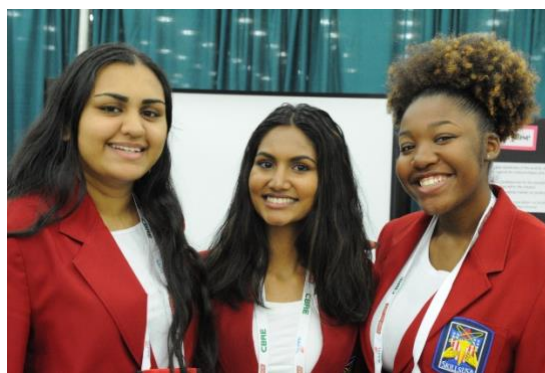


### »» SkillsUSA Membership is Open — Join Early as a Professional

The SkillsUSA registration site is officially open for the 2023-24 school year and advisors should join now so they receive all mailings and emails about programs and opportunities. Professional members receive [many resources and benefits](#) when they submit membership with a valid email address: The **Framework**

**Integration Toolkit** ensures career readiness within your classroom, training program and chapter; the **Program of Work Toolkit** includes resources to help implement an effective and successful Program of Work; the “**Jump into STEM!**” curriculum provides

an opportunity to engage elementary and middle school students in STEM learning; and the **SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards** are the official regulations for the SkillsUSA Championships career competitions. **E-Courses and advisor professional development** provide a variety of training options. National dues for professional members are \$20 plus state dues which vary. [Check for your state’s dues and deadlines.](#)



### »» Supporting the Trades is in Fashion

SkillsUSA partners Tractor Supply Company, the Tractor Supply Company Foundation and Carhartt are launching a new “Support the Trades” apparel collection to help advance skilled trades in the U.S. The Carhartt collection is sold exclusively at [Tractor Supply in stores or online](#). The clothing line includes short-sleeved and long-sleeved shirts in several colors, plus three ball caps and two knit hats. For every item sold, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to SkillsUSA. Support the Trades first launched in 2021. Order your “Support the Trades” merchandise now and help spread the word by showcasing your attire on social media and tagging SkillsUSA! For more information, check out the new [“Support the Trades” video](#).



## »» Apply Now for Construction Trades Lowe's Grants

Lowe's is providing \$250,000 in new grants for SkillsUSA chapters. The grants are for up to \$15,000 per chapter to upgrade classroom tools or equipment; purchase additional materials and supplies for students; or to obtain equipment, materials and supplies to conduct a community service project. These grants are for the construction cluster, including Cabinetmaking, Carpentry, Electrical Construction Wiring, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR), Masonry, Plumbing, Sheet Metal, Welding and Architectural Drafting. All funds must be spent at Lowe's stores. [Applications are open](#) and must be submitted by **Sept. 30**. Successful applicants will be notified by Oct. 30 and projects must be completed by June 1, 2024. For questions, contact [Laura Rauch](#).

## »» CHARGE: A SkillsUSA Chapter Officer Video Series

Advisors work hard to teach their chapter officer teams how to be successful leaders. SkillsUSA recognizes the challenge and has developed a program that makes it easier to create a strong chapter officer team. CHARGE is a weekly video series that covers topics that chapter officers will find useful in the day-to-day management of their local SkillsUSA chapters. Each CHARGE video features an activity guide to support chapter officer growth and development. There are 12 three-minute episodes in the series. [Access CHARGE here](#).

## »» Local Chapter Recruitment Resources are Available

Check out the [SkillsUSA Recruitment Week resource hub](#) to learn how your chapter leaders can successfully plan activities to engage potential new SkillsUSA members. You'll also find advisor resources to coach chapter leaders around recruitment and engaging potential new members. Holding a chapter recruitment activity is a [Chapter Excellence Program](#) Level 2 indicator, so utilizing these resources can be one extra step in achieving chapter excellence.

## »» Free Career Essentials Support for Instructors

If you are beginning your journey with Career Essentials this school year, support from SkillsUSA is available every step of the way! Instructors can call 844-875-4557 or email [careeressentials@skillsusa.org](mailto:careeressentials@skillsusa.org) for assistance with:

- Ordering Career Essentials for your students
- Developing an implementation plan
- Creating administrative accounts for new instructors
- Logging into your account
- Using the dashboard to monitor progress and performance
- Learning more about Career Essentials or the Absorb learning management system



If you are interested in learning more about using Career Essentials to define, implement and measure the development of career-readiness skills in your classroom, [register for a Career Essentials overview here](#).

## »» Fall Professional Development Offerings

Are you ready to take your SkillsUSA knowledge to the next level? SkillsUSA's Fall Professional Development offerings include new advisor training, Framework integration, SkillsUSA Advantage report, local competition guide and more. Check out our [training website](#) and use [this form to sign up](#) for your selected sessions.

## »» Request WLTI Congressional Appointments Now

One of the biggest highlights of the [Washington Leadership Training Institute \(WLTI\)](#) is when members advocate for SkillsUSA and career and technical education on Capitol Hill with their senators and representatives. If you're attending WLTI, make sure you request those appointments now! The meetings should take place on Tuesday, Sept. 26, between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. ET. You can request an appointment by email using the template on the [SkillsUSA Advocacy website](#).

## »» SkillsUSA Store at WLTI

With the 2023 Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI) quickly approaching, now is the perfect time to take advantage of free shipping on the [SkillsUSA Store](#) and stock up for your conference needs. The SkillsUSA Store will also be open at the WLTI Hotel on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## »» Elevate Registration is Open

The SkillsUSA Elevate Chapter Officer Development Conference happens Oct. 11 from 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET. This virtual interactive experience for local chapter officer teams focuses on building successful chapters by equipping officers with the skills to lead and serve their members. Successful completion of this conference supports the quality of your local SkillsUSA programming and the individual growth of your members as it activates SkillsUSA's mission to empower members to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. After participating in Elevate, your chapter officers will be able to:

- Use Self-Motivation, Communication, Teamwork and Planning, Organizing and Management to serve and lead their chapter members.
- Lead chapter members in their development of Framework skills through intentional incorporation of the skills in chapter Program of Work activities.
- Implement a four-step process of planning high-quality and successful chapter activities that align with a Program of Work category and include goals, Essential Element instruction, a plan to achieve, and an evaluation.

Elevate is open to all SkillsUSA chapter officers but at least one advisor must participate with each registered team. Participate right from your classroom, and the cost is only \$10 per participant. Registration closes **Sept. 22**. [Learn more and register on the SkillsUSA website](#).

## »» SkillsUSA Technical Fridays Workshops Start in September

Join us for “Technical Fridays,” SkillsUSA’s virtual workshops led by industry experts helping teachers develop specific technical skills relevant to their career fields of interest. Leave the sessions with a new skill to implement in your classroom. [Learn more about the workshops here](#). On Sept. 15, from 4-5 p.m. ET, we will offer a STEM-themed session titled, “**Fundamental Skills for Multiple Industries.**” Snap-on and NC3 will explore the various industry-recognized competency-based certifications that can be applied to multiple industries. The session will focus primarily on torque fundamentals, hand-tool identification, safety and proper usage and precision measuring instruments. Workshops are free of charge. [Register for the sessions online](#) (space is limited). If you have questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).



## »» CHANNELLOCK Skilled Trades Site and Contest

SkillsUSA partner CHANNELLOCK hosts a “[Trades 101](#)” website that highlights the incredible benefits of a skilled trades career. On the site, students can explore trade schools, tips for choosing the right trade and steps to enter a trade field. In addition, CHANNELLOCK is holding a [Trade School Trade-Up](#) national initiative aimed at giving CTE programs across the country a chance to win shop makeovers and tools to foster learning success. Contest entries are due by **Oct. 13**.

## »» Share Your Champions

The [SkillsUSA Champions](#) magazine staff is always looking for potential feature stories to share with SkillsUSA Nation. If you know of a SkillsUSA student, advisor, industry partner or graduate whose story would be motivating and inspirational, please submit the information [through our online form](#).

## »» Plan Now for Manufacturing Day

Many SkillsUSA chapters participate in Manufacturing Day, a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation. While the official 2023 [Manufacturing Day](#) is celebrated on Oct. 6, you can hold events on any date in October. Activities for students may include a plant tour, a virtual industry tour or an event on campus that highlights manufacturing. SkillsUSA chapters should share their Manufacturing Day photos and stories with [Brooke Gatchell](#), SkillsUSA’s social media specialist.

